

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families

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The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program provides comprehensive health services to all children under the age of 21 who are eligible for Medical Assistance. The goal of EPSDT is to identify and treat health conditions early to promote normal growth and development. EPSDT provides for early prevention care, periodic health evaluation, screening for health defects, diagnosis of health problems, treatment and continuing care. Because EPSDT services include preventive services, they are available at a child's regular visit with his/her doctor. In some cases, where special health care needs are identified, additional services may be available. The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides EPSDT Periodicity Schedules, which provide a schedule for general health, preventative and oral health screening and treatment for children enrolled in the RIte Care plan, as well as Medicaid Fee for Service. These schedules are reviewed and revised periodically and the most current schedule is available on the DHS website.

The primary service worker ensures that eligible children in placement are enrolled and encourages the parents of eligible children who live at home to enroll them in EPSDT. The Department requires that a complete medical examination of each child entering placement is conducted prior to or as soon as possible after placement. The caretaker or primary worker who schedules the appointment indicates that he/she is requesting that an EPSDT screening form be completed by the physician. It is not always possible to have an EPSDT screening examination performed prior to or immediately after the placement of a child; however, an appointment for the examination must be scheduled within seven working days of the child's placement. EPSDT screening may be accessed through community health centers and pediatricians and family health practitioners in private practice. A community health center is not used for a child who is in the care of a private physician if that physician participates in EPSDT.

Related Procedure

[Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program \(EPSDT\)](#)

Related Policy

[Medical Assistance \(MA\) Funded Mental Health Services: Client Eligibility and Provider Guidelines](#)
[Mental Health Evaluation and Counseling Services](#)

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program (EPSDT)

Procedure from Policy 1000.0045: [Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program \(EPSDT\)](#)

I. Child in Placement

- A The primary worker ensures the provision of the initial EPSDT examination and the continuity of good health care for the child in placement.
- B An appointment for a physical examination by a physician must be made prior to or within seven working days of placement.
- C If the child is coming from a home in which he or she is eligible for Medical Assistance, the worker ascertains if the child is already enrolled in the EPSDT program. If the child is enrolled, the primary worker indicates this on the Periodicity Schedule (DCYF #135) in the Medical/Dental section of the case record. The examining physician is informed of the child's EPSDT status during the child's medical examination.
- D The primary worker informs the caretaker about the EPSDT program and provides the caretaker with the EPSDT packet.
- E The primary worker or caretaker requests that the physician complete the EPSDT form at the time of the initial exam.
- F The primary worker provides the caretaker with the Health and Education Passport which includes a copy of the DCYF #135 in conformance with [DCYF Policy 1000.0035, Health and Education Passport](#).
- G The caretaker arranges for ongoing medical care including routine and periodic examinations, vaccinations, and prescribed treatment.
- H The primary worker monitors the provision of health care to the child in accordance with the Periodicity Schedule.
- I The primary worker incorporates completed examination forms and other documents containing medical information in the appropriate section(s) of the case record.

II. Child at Home

- A The primary worker is responsible to encourage the parent(s) to enroll the child in the EPSDT program and to follow through with health care services.
- B If the child is already enrolled in the EPSDT program, the primary worker indicates the child's EPSDT status on the DCYF #135 in the Medical/Dental section of the case record.
- C If the child is not enrolled, the primary worker strongly encourages involvement and provides parent with the following information within seven working days of case opening.
 - 1. The benefits of preventive health services.
 - 2. How EPSDT services can be obtained.
 - 3. How specific information can be obtained concerning the location of the nearest providers participating in the EPSDT program.
 - 4. The screening services that are offered.
 - 5. The Periodicity Schedule established for Rhode Island Medical Assistance recipients.

6. Both initial and periodic screening according to the Periodicity Schedule is available to recipients.
 7. Treatment services covered under the Medical Assistance Program will be provided for problems disclosed during screening.
 8. Assistance in referral will be given for services not covered under the Medical Assistance Program.
 9. Assistance in scheduling appointments, if the family or recipient requests it, will be provided by the Department.
 10. Assistance in arranging for transportation, if the family or recipient requests it, will be provided by the Department.
 11. As long as the family or recipient remains eligible for Medical Assistance, EPSDT services may be requested at any time in the future if the family does not choose to access the service at the time it is initially offered.
 12. The family or recipient may choose to receive EPSDT services from a provider of its choice unless the child is enrolled in a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). Such enrollment will restrict the provision of EPSDT services to the HMO. If the provider does not offer the full range of EPSDT services, as specified in the plan, the family or recipient can receive the covered services from another participating provider.
 13. The EPSDT services covered under the Medical Assistance Program are available at no cost to the recipient.
- D The primary worker provides the parent with the EPSDT packet.
- E The primary worker may choose to include provisions for EPSDT enrollment and ongoing services in the Case Plan/Agreement, DCYF #032.
- F The parent arranges for ongoing medical care including routine and periodic examinations, vaccinations, and prescribed treatment.
- G The primary worker monitors the provision of health care to the child in accordance with the Periodicity Schedule.
- H The primary worker incorporates completed examination forms and other documents containing medical information in the appropriate section of the case record.